The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, covering in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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LABOR INJUNCTION RESTS ON DISHONESTY AND DECEIT

An Asheville, N. C., court refused to enjoin striking printers. In appealing to the supreme court of that state to reverse the decision, the employers' attorney said:

"A labor organization is not granted any greater immunity than any other organization or individual."

This dishonesty and deceit is not unusual. It is one of the tricks that the friends of the labor injunction resort to.

The organized workers do not want immunity. Instead, they object to be singled out for a so-called process of law that other citizens are not subjected to. The workers do not ask for favors when they object to this procedure. They want the same status as other citizens.

This is ignored by defenders of the labor injunction, who get just as far away from facts as possible.

Under the law of the land if a man, for instance, is charged with threatening to assault another man, proper punishment for such wrongdoing is provided.

But that law can not be enforced until the accused—who is assumed to be innocent until proven guilty—is privileged to call his accuser, to cross-examine him, and to have a jury trial, presided over by a judge whose conduct is most minutely charted by law, custom and rule.

This system is known as government by law—the rights of the accused are protected. He does not have to depend upon the whim of any individual.

This country rests on government by law. Only revolutionists would change it. In times of strike these revolutionists are joined by employers and attorneys and judges who substitute the labor injunction for government by law.

In strike times a judge orders working men not to assault or not to do other things they know are unlawful as well as the court does.

One of the strikebreakers makes affidavit that he has been "threatened with assault," and the accused strikers are haled before the injunction judge.

Are they assumed to be innocent? Are they permitted to face their accuser and cross-examine him? Are they accorded a jury trial, as is the meanest horse thief or kidnapper?

To all these questions the answer is "No!"

The court is not bound by any rule or law. Government by law is sidetracked for government by the individual.

The court punishes the strikers as he sees fit—not for violating law but for contempt of court.

It may be said that this is a quick method of ending the dispute. But the cure is worse than the disease. The labor injunction advocate ranges himself with the defenders of a lynching mob and other foes of government by law. By making himself a party to this unlawful and revolutionary procedure the judge weakens the entire governmental structure.

Under government by the individual the judge has a free hand for every petty spite, economic prejudice, and unreasoning mood. Under government by law the judge is held to strict account for his acts. And because the organized workers insist on government by law they are charged with wanting "immunity."

The charge shows what shallow minds are included in the legal profession.

The labor injunction must go. It has no place in a land dedicated to government by law.

Reaction Behind Mexican Revolt; Workers Take Field Against Foe

Washington, Dec. 15.—The present Mexican revolution is directed by reaction and the military elements for the purpose of restoring special privilege. Trade unionists are being organized to take the field against these enemies of democracy.

This is the word received by Samuel Gompers, chairman of the Pan-American Federation of Labor, from Ricardo Trevino and Reynaldo Cervantes Torres, secretaries of the Confederacion Regional Obrera Mexicana (Mexican Federation of Labor).

The following telegram was received by Mr. Gompers from the southern trade unionists, who ask the support of the Pan-American movement:

"You are no doubt aware that military elements, headed by General Sanchez, have revolted against the government, the prevaricator, Adolfo de la Huerta, being at the head of the movement. The purpose of the rebellion is to embarrass reaction, restore special privilege and subjugate workers. We have the honor to inform you that the Confederacion Regional Obrera Mexicana is in absolute support of President Obregon, and we are taking steps to organize armed contingents of workers to combat reaction in the field, to which reaction itself has forced the issue. The labor movement does not refuse the challenge. In behalf of labor solidarity we ask support of the Pan-American Federation of Labor in particularly preventing in that country any activities of our enemies."

Chairman Gompers, together with Chester M. Wright, English-language secretary, and Canuto A. Vargas, Spanish-language secretary, forming the executive committee of the Pan-American Federation of Labor, forwarded this telegram to the Mexican trade unionists:

"The Pan-American Federation of Labor supports with earnestness the position taken by the Mexican Federation of Labor in support of the democratically-elected government headed by President Obregon, whom this committee has always regarded as a patriot and a sincere friend of the wage earners. We are profoundly disappointed that there should be any wage earners in Mexico so false to their professions as to resort to arms in an effort to overthrow a government which was so democratically and constitutionally elected by the people of Mexico, and which is the best government Mexico has ever had.

"We take this opportunity to record our condemnation of any effort to overthrow democratic government anywhere, whether in behalf of monarchists or dictators of the other extreme. We are well aware that the rebellious effort now confronting the Mexican government is supported by the powerful extreme reactionaries and a small group of extreme revolutionists of the communist or bolshevist type, a combination which is curious but not entirely unnatural, but which shows clearly the insincerity of the attempt from a democratic point of view.

"The Mexican Federation of Labor is to be congratulated upon its prompt and effective decision to support the government which it did so much to establish, and with which it has worked in such close co-operation to the lasting benefit of the wage earners and the citizenship generally of the Mexican Republic.

"We interpret the resort to arms by the reactionary movement as proof positive that it could not win in a peaceful contest of ballots. All peoples who love democracy must protect the ballot against violence, and must know that only in a free and peaceful expression of the will of the people through the ballot can there be any security for political freedom or any guarantee of continued progress toward greater opportunity, freedom and justice.

"We congratulate the Mexican Federation of Labor for its splendid expression of faith, for its courageous course of action and for its clear perception of the path of right and justice.

"We can offer only our moral support, but in a just cause we pledge that to the utmost. Democracy must be maintained at all hazards, government at all costs. Not only as the executive committee of the Pan-American Federation of Labor, but also in the name of freedom, justice and democracy, we urge upon the Mexican people to rally around the present President Obregon and his associates of the Mexican Republic by every necessary sacrifice to put down this unwarranted rebellion."

RAIL PARTISAN YET ENRAGED OVER M'ADOO WAGE AWARD

New York, Dec. 15.—The Wall Street Journal is still enraged because railroad employes dared to insist on wage increases during the war. It seems impossible for this financial spokesman to see discontent, agitation, or to take any position that is backed by the records.

The newspaper refers to the first wage award under government control as "the notorious" general order No. 27, and is unfair enough to mislead its readers that one of the railroads' representatives on a commission to adjust these wages "was then ill, exceedingly nervous and has since died," and that another representative of the railroads "committed suicide"—thus attempting to create the opinion that the railroads were represented by men mentally incompetent.

This unmanly and frenzied propaganda is in opposition to the facts.

Because of wage increase demands following government control of railroads Director General McAdoo appointed a commission in January, 1918, to investigate the matter.

This commission was non-partisan, and consisted of Franklin K. Lane, secretary of the interior; Charles E. McChord, member of the interstate commerce commission; J. Harry Covington, major of the District of Columbia courts, and William R. Willcox. In recommending wage increases, the commission said:

"It has been a somewhat popular impression that railroad employes were among the most highly paid workers. But figures gathered from the railroads disposed of this belief. Fifty-one per cent of all employes during December, 1917, received $75 per month or less. And 66 per cent received $100 a month or less. Between the grades receiving from $150 to $250 per month, there is included less than 3 per cent of all the employes (excluding officials) and these aggregate less than 60,000 men out of a grand total of 2,000,000.

"The greatest number of employes on all the roads fall in the class receiving between $60 and $65 per month—181,693; while within the range of the next $10 in monthly salary there is a total of 312,761 persons. In December, 1917, there were 111,477 clerks receiving annual pay of $900 or less. In 1917 the average pay of this class was but $56.77 per month. There were 270,885 section men whose average pay as a class was $50.31 per month."

Because of these conditions the McAdoo commission recommended increases. The award created dissatisfaction among various shop crafts, where rates were higher than on eastern anti-union railroads.

To adjust these differences, a wages and working conditions committee was appointed. It consisted of three representatives of labor and three representatives of the railroads. Both parties indicated that the selections were satisfactory.

Now the Wall Street Journal, in its campaign for the railroads, reaches into the cemetery and flaunts to the world the ending of two of the railroads' representatives.

CONDITIONS APPALL IN NEW YORK HOUSING

New York, Dec. 15.—If rent laws are ended it will be hazardous to this city's health, said Health Commissioner Wendel in a letter to state housing officials.

"While these statutes have undoubtedly resulted in a restriction of the bargaining for apartments under the law of supply and demand," said the health commissioner, "the fact that they have not resulted in any great hardship on our landlords is apparent from the small number of foreclosures of tenements."

The health commissioner said that two surveys by his department show conclusively that homes have been broken up, doubling up of families resulting and the lodger evil has increased by leaps and bounds, with vacant apartments few and far between.

It was stated that since the enactment of the tax exemption law, that applies to new buildings, the city has had a building boom of remarkable proportions. "Unfortunately, the high and constantly mounting cost of construction of these homes has given small relief to a goodly portion of our population, and particularly that portion which is known as our 'white collar' class," he continued.

"It is in the cheaper class apartments that most over-crowding exists and fewest vacancies appear. The large number of one and two-room apartments in which families still live is appalling."

BILL ASKS PRESIDENT TO EXPLAIN DISMISSALS

Washington, Dec. 15.—Senator Carraway wants the president to inform the senate why 28 clerks and employes of the bureau of engraving were dismissed in March, last year.

The dismissals were made in violation of civil service rules and without giving any reason to the employes.

COAL IS IMPURE

Harrisburg, Pa., Dec. 15.—Tests of anthracite coal, conducted in Pennsylvania mines in connection with an investigation by Secretary of Mines Joseph J. Walsh, disclosed from 15 to 50 per cent slate and bone, the secretary reported.

The report covered samples from mines in three districts. The greatest impurity was in a load of coal which showed 20 per cent slate and 30 per cent bone.

RESENT BROKEN PROMISES

Newark, N. J., Dec. 15.—The public service railway company, which operates a large number of street car lines in this state, has broken its promise to give street car men one day off in every eight. This promise was made after a two-months' strike last summer. The workers are holding meetings, and discussing the best way to force the company to live up to its contract.

METAL WORKERS UNITE

Jackson, Tenn., Dec. 15.—Sheet metal workers have organized and affiliated with the trade union movement.

Dignity of Craftsmanship Need of American Industry!

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 15.—In a letter to the apprentice committee of the American construction council Franklin D. Roosevelt deplored the tendency toward "white collar" jobs and the failure to appreciate artistic labor and to dignify craftsmanship.

"What we need is more appreciation of the dignity of creative craftsmanship," said the former assistant secretary of the navy. "We need the guild spirit of the middle ages which made the workmanship of that day something to be studied and admired by the generations which followed.

"It is the duty of this and other organizations to arouse the country to the need of placing skilled manual labor on par with clerical and non-manual occupations in the public esteem."

Mr. Roosevelt urged the adoption of practical standards for apprentices that will attract young men to these trades, and to also assure steady employment.

The letter emphasized the dignity of creative labor and declared that a national spirit toward this subject must be developed.

HIGHER U. S. PENSIONS URGED BY FEDERAL BOARD

Washington, Dec. 15.—In its annual report the civil service commission declares that the recently raised retirement law is only partially successful and higher annuities is necessary.

This statement comes just as an organized civil service employes, affiliated with the A. F. of L. united to urge needed changes in the retirement law and to raise the salary to $1,200 a year.

"The present schedule of annuities, which fixes $720 per annum as the maximum, was proposed 30 years ago, when the movement for retirement legislation was begun, and was based upon 60 per cent of $1,200 salary," the report states.

"The increased cost of living has made the annuities far below a minimum of subsistence, and therefore congress has not given what was asked or what it thought it was giving. It was expected when the law was passed that living expenses would decline."

ROADS GET LARGE SUMS

Washington, Dec. 15.—A total of $501,322,000 has been paid to the railroads under the transportation act provisions which guaranteed railroad earnings for six months after termination of government control, according to the interstate commerce commission. It is believed the figure will be adjusted when an additional $37,677,000 is paid.

This guarantee was in operation for six months after the government relinquished control of the roads. During that time, as now, there was no check on the expenditures of the roads, who were assured a fixed earning return.

Under the existing law the commission is authorized to set rates so that a "fair return rate" may be secured. The commission has set this rate at 5% per cent, after fixed charges are met.

DISTRIBUTION IS COSTLY

Washington, Dec. 15.—The cost of retail distribution of farm products are "unreasonably high," says Secretary of Agriculture Wallace in his annual report.

The cabinet official declares that these excessive charges increase prices to the consumer and deprive the farmer of increased consumption.

POST OFFICE SERVICE AFFECTED BY LOW WAGE

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 15.—The low wage paid government postoffice clerks and letter carriers is demoralizing the postal service of this city, and the Detroit Free Press is alarmed.

"In return for their faithful and intelligent work," says this paper, "the postal employes as a whole receive salaries so meager that they would scarcely attract an unskilled laborer and are distinctly below what are considered a fair living wage. In cities such as Detroit, where costs are high, the postoffice worker who attempts to support a family on his stipend is close to want most of the time.

"Such a situation as this cannot continue. Either congress will have to be rescue with substantial pay increases or the service is going to suffer serious deterioration."

Postmaster Smith states that for 14 months the Detroit postoffice has been unable to fill a single civil service examination for carriers and clerks for no other reason than that the salary inducement is so low compared with the starting point in other classes of work that few are willing to accept this employment.

EMPLOYERS HELD LIABLE

Washington, Dec. 15.—The United States supreme court has held that under workmen's compensation laws employers are liable for injury or death of employes while en route to and from work.

The fact that such injury may take place a few minutes before or after the fixed hours of employment does not relieve the employer of responsibility, the court said.

The case came from Utah. That state's supreme court and the Utah industrial commission upheld compensation to the widow of a packing plant employe who was killed while on his way to work. The company contested the award, claiming lack of responsibility on the ground that the employe was killed in a crossing accident, neither the conveyance, the locomotive nor the premises being the property of or under the control of the company.

BUYING BUM STOCK

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 15.—The International railway company is planning to have its strikebreaking motormen and conductors buy stock in this company, which lost more than $1,000,000 the past year. The concern is owned by the same parties who own the Philadelphia rapid transit, and the latter city a company "union" has operated. Its wages are based on the rates paid in union cities.

JOHN MOORE IS DEAD

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 15.—John Moore, for several years president of the Ohio state federation of labor, died in a local hospital after a long illness, through stomach trouble. Before his sickness he was stationed at Washington as legislative representative of the United Mine Workers of America. He was a member of that organization for many years, and was a power in its councils.

LEGISLATORS LOSE THEIR POWER; WHITE HOUSE IS NOW IN CONTROL

New York, Dec. 15.—"Under the present conditions in Washington, and conditions which have existed ever since I came here, it has almost become impossible to obtain effective legislation in the interest of the plain people. I have been bucking this game for 20 years, and there is no way of beating it. I've done all I could. Now I'm through."

This above summarizes reasons why United States Senator Norris of Nebraska will not be a candidate for re-election, according to an interview with Paul Y. Anderson and published in the New York World.

Senator Norris indicts concentrated power in the hands of the executive department, and of the power wielded by special privilege. He belongs to the Administration party. He and Senator La Follette alone remain of the original group of congressional "insurgents."

"The influences that dominate congress are strong and resourceful," said Senator Norris. "The people don't realize how strong they are.

"One great influence that is always present is special privilege. In the old days another evil influence was the party caucus, which destroyed the independence of individual members and bound them to the party bosses' chariot wheels. Today that has been supplanted by the power which the executive power wields over the legislative department. The president has become more powerful than all the rest of the cabinet combined. The administration lays down a certain course and demands that congress follow it. The legislators who show their independence are punished and those who obey are rewarded.

"The appointment of 'lame ducks' to important posts is a glaring illustration of the rewards which await those who fall into line from the White House. And the result of this practice is that the people have been rendered powerless to punish their own servants."

Senator Norris cited a long list of defeated office holders who had served special privilege and who are now rewarded with better paying positions than they held in congress.

The lawmaker compared this life of ease with the treatment accorded a legislator who refuses to obey orders. First, his patronage is taken from him and his constituents are led to believe he has no prestige in Washington. This is taken advantage of by his political opponents "back home." Then the labels "demagogue" and "kicker" are hung on him. If his wife and daughters have social proclivities they are made to feel the curse of the administration in subtle ways.

If these fail to bring him around to believe that the power of "reasonable attitude," the vast federal machine in his district is set in motion against him. There are postmasters, district attorneys, federal marshals, revenue collectors, prohibition agents and many others who receive orders to "get" the disobedient lawmaker.

Senator Norris' remedy is to relieve the executive department of much of its patronage, and for the people to stand behind representatives who fight for them. Under the latter plan, when the representative is libeled by reaction and is denied patronage as a means of forcing him to obey orders.

WAGE CONTRACT LEGAL, SAYS U. S. HIGH COURT

Washington, Dec. 15.—The government failed in the United States supreme court to prove that a wage agreement between the principal glass manufacturing establishments in this country and their employes violates the Sherman anti-trust law.

The case was that of the National Association of Window Glass Manufacturers and the National Window Glass Workers.

The agreement restricted the periods of time hand-blown glass factories shall operate. The employers favored it because of trade conditions and the workers favored it because it stabilized industry.

The supreme court refused to accept the government's point that the agreement curtailed production and was, therefore, a violation of the anti-trust act.

RAIL MEN MAY STRIKE

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 15.—Officials of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes announce that Canadian employes are voting on a strike proposition. More than 30,000 employes are affected. Certain Canadian railroads refuse to accept a conciliation board award granting certain classes of these workers a wage increase of 2 cents an hour.

The men are now voting on whether they will enforce their original demand of 5 cents an hour.

WARDS MAY SELL

New York, Dec. 15.—It is stated that the United bakeries corporation is negotiating to buy the Ward baking company. This will result in a gigantic bread concern with $75,000,000 assets and plants in 30 cities. One of the Wards is the chairman of the board of directors of the United bakeries corporation. The Ward concern is engaged in a war with organized bakers because of its anti-union attitude.

WHEN FOREIGNERS BUY UNITED STATES GOODS THEY ARE EXPORTED IN FOREIGN SHIPS

Washington, Dec. 15.—"A fallacy of the day is the belief that American business men can sell goods for export without having to have them carried in American ships," said Andrew Furuseth, president of the International Seamen's union, in commenting on a press report by Edward C. Plummer of the United States shipping board.

Mr. Plummer is quoted as saying that "American ships can not continue to remain exposed to the killing competition of foreign cheap labor and stay on the seas without government aid."

"The wages paid on American ships has nothing to do with the case," declared President Furuseth, who said that the public overlooks the fact that when a foreigner buys American goods he has the power to dictate what vessels they will be shipped in."

"When the foreigner goes onto our exchanges," said President Furuseth, "and buys our staple commodities to be delivered at the ship board, these goods are then no longer American owned. They belong to the foreigner, who is materially connected directly or indirectly with transportation in his own country. Aside from patriotic motives, it is to his interest to have his goods shipped in vessels flying his country's flag.

"The American vessel owner can not meet that situation by employing cheap labor. If workers labored for their board, the result would be the same. Neither can the vessel owner meet the problem with the aid of a subsidy.

CHANGED VIEW POINT IS FIRST ESSENTIAL

San Francisco, Dec. 15.—"There is small chance of making progress in our country while the employing class of society have changed their minds," says the Seamen's Journal, in discussing the defeat of the 44-hour proposed 48-hour law for women and children in Maine.

"Organized labor and other forces put up a strong fight for the law, but their educational campaign had not been of long enough duration to show the people the real benefits of the proposal.

"Only when people have been educated to see clearly the benefits of a change will they consent to progress. Maine's action demonstrates that progress is slow. But that should not discourage real progressives. They have only to redouble their efforts and work with patience, intelligence and sound methods, and they will bring about reforms based on a solid foundation—a conviction on the part of society that proposed changes are necessary for the advancement of society."

"EQUAL RIGHTS" FIGHT LAUNCHED IN SENATE

Washington, Dec. 15.—Senator Curtis of Kansas has introduced a resolution proposing an "equal rights" amendment to the constitution. It is sponsored by the national woman's party and is intended to abolish the term "male" in the federal organic act, thereby putting men and women on the same basis.

Foes of the proposal show that it will wipe out all legislation designed to improve the condition of women wage workers.

CHANGE CONVENTION CITY

Indianapolis, Dec. 15.—By a referendum vote of 10,662 to 1,617 the members of Journeymen Barbers' International union decided to hold their next convention in this city, father than Kansas City. Officers favored the plan for reasons of economy, as this city is the union's headquarters.

CUT MINIMUM WAGE

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, Dec. 15.—The minimum wage board of this province has cut women's wages from $14 to $12.50 a week in the retail, manufacturing and laundering industries. The minimum wage was only on paper, however, as it was established a year ago but never enforced.

HIGH WAGES BENEFIT ALL

New York, Dec. 15.—Frank Vanderlip, financier, does not join the pack in its cry against "high wages."

"High wages mean increasing purchasing power," he said. "While wages of labor are high, workers today are more efficient."

AGAINST WAGE REDUCTIONS

New York, Dec. 15.—The building trades employers' association announces that next year they will maintain the 1923 wage rates and bonus.

CANNERY INDUSTRY NEEDS CLEANING UP

Anchorage, Alaska, Dec. 18.—Bad conditions prevail in the canning industry in Alaska, according to testimony to a federal grand jury report made to Judge E. E. Ritchie.

Peonage, the use of narcotics among these workers is common; that cannery workers suffering from social diseases are given free medical permitted to work in packing fish; that degeneracy was in evidence and quite common; that the carrying of revolvers was general, resulting in crimes and violence.

The report contains this indictment of employers: "We recommend that legislation be enacted to require canneries and trappers to furnish their employes with a sufficient supply of wholesome food and sanitary living quarters during their labors; that the Alaska legislature enact such laws as will compel canneries and cannery contractors to pay their employes in money at least once a month. We further recommend legislation that will require canneries hiring men in the states and bringing them to Alaska to return such employes to the states at the expiration of their term, numbers of men are left penniless in Alaska by these companies with no means of money for their support and transportation outside."

It was further recommended that prospective employes be examined at the port of debarkation to ascertain if any are drug addicts or afflicted with communicable diseases.

URGE TAX EXEMPTION

New York, Dec. 15.—The exemption of taxes on new buildings will encourage building and thus help relieve the housing shortage, is the opinion of the united neighboring house committee of 50 of the larger settlement organizations in this city.

It is declared that the minimum standard of living and sanitation in the maintenance of existing low-priced tenements have been shockingly reduced in a standard of living incompatible with decency and public safety. Such standards require redefinition and the imposition of severe penalties for violation, it is stated.

PAY STOCK DIVIDEND

New York, Dec. 15.—Directors of the Hedge-Paving company have declared a 50 per cent stock dividend. This means that additional stock has been issued and holders of the Typographical union be enjoined from picketing their plants.

OPPOSE BAD HOUSING

Philadelphia, Dec. 15.—Recent increases in assessments on private homes was denounced as "outrageous" by Mayor Moore in addressing the national housing conference. The city official said that bad housing breeds criminals.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES

Indianapolis, Dec. 15.—Newspaper printers have secured a 39 per cent increase in wages. The dispute was first referred to an arbitrator, but he "balled" matters up so that the printers instructed international union for-strike sanction. The executive council decided President Howard to adjust the matter. He secured an agreement for $1.04½ an hour for day work and $1.10 the first year, and $1.12 and $1.20 for the second and third years, with $1.37 for the "lobster shift." The old rates were 95 cents and $1 an hour.

PRINTERS MAY PICKET

Toledo, Ohio, Dec. 15.—Judge Newcomer has refused the plea of two commercial printing shop proprietors for an injunction against the Typographical union be enjoined from picketing their plants.

"GAG" RULE REMOVED BY DETERMINED MEN

Washington, Dec. 15.—A handful of determined men in the majority party blocked the organization of the house until they received promises that the democratic party in the house would be permitted to vote whether old gag rules would be retained.

With this understanding, the so-called "insurgents" stepped off the organization track, and the party's caucus nominees for speaker and other officers of the house were elected.

Under the agreement the old rules will operate for only 10 days. During that time any member may offer amendments to the rules, and same shall be subject to open debate, discussion, amendment and record votes of the house.

Under the present system the rules committee can ordinarily dictate legislation by refusing to present to the house any measure that it sees fit to withhold. If the proposal does manage to reach the house, other rules restrict debate, amendment and record votes.

It is now agreed that the house membership may pass upon the merits of the proposed change. This is what the so-called "insurgents" asked. After the January 10 adjournment that the present chairman of the rules committee had the same proposals in his pocket for several weeks, but no opportunity to present them to the house.

"In his pocket!" one member loudly emphasized.

President Gompers said: "There is no doubt that the men who have made the fight for more democratic rules represent in general the spirit of the masses of the people in regard to needed legislative measures."

JUDGES EXTEND POWER

Washington, Dec. 15.—While efforts will be made during congress to curb federal judges in contempt cases, the power of these judges in receiverships will also be given consideration. Two or two issues grew out of the Craig case that has practically ended by the president's "remission of sentence."

From every section of the country strong protests are registered on the policy of federal judges aiding corporations to reduce wages, destroy local and state franchises, the terms of which they find unsatisfactory.

Citizens are strongly objecting to the practice of these courts aiding corporations in their contests with states and municipalities.

EMPLOYMENT RECEDES

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 15.—Factory employment reports for November are not encouraging. Employment went down almost 2 per cent, although November is usually the busiest month of pre-Christmas activity, says the state department of labor.

Employment in the manufacturing industries is still at a high level. Pay rolls have risen steadily and show a substantial increase over those of last year, according to the statement.

LARGE TOBACCO PROFITS

New York, Dec. 15.—During its past fiscal year the Imperial tobacco company of Canada reports a net profit of $3,271,421.

ENGINEERS ARE UNITING

Council Bluffs, Iowa, Dec. 15.—Stationary engineers in this city are organizing a local. Many of them are affiliated with the Omaha local across the river.

PAINTERS HAVE ORGANIZED

Lander, Wyo., Dec. 15.—A new local of painters and decorators has been formed here.